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Substrates for HIV protease

Abstract

An assay method for the rapid determination of hydrolytic enzyme activity in large numbers of samples is provided which comprises bonding a resin-binding compound, such as biotin, to one side of the scissile bond of the substrate and a ***reporter molecule,*** such as a fluorescence marker, to the opposite side of the scissile bond, incubating the modified substrate and the enzyme in multiple well plates, e.g. 96-well plates, optionally in the presence if a test inhibitor or activator compound transferring the incubation solutions to a second multiple well plate having upper and lower chambers separated by a porous membrane the upper chamber of which contains resin beads capable of binding with the resin-binding compound, filtering and washing the wells of the second plate and reading the emission from the plates. The invention also provides protease substrates for HIV-1 protease, vertebrate stromelysin and derivatives thereof which are useful in the assay method.

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